GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:517
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2008
ABSENCE OF CHILDREN FROM SCHOOLS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey of primary and middle schools in 286 districts in the country recently to ascertain the reasons for absence of children from schools;

(b) if so, the names of States wherein the attendance of students has been found below 60 percent indicating the figure of SC/ST minorities therein;

(c) the reasons behind the inability of parents to send their children to schools;

(d) whether the Government has decided to implement any new scheme for increasing the attendance of children in schools; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI ARJUN SINGH)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) O F LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.517 TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.04.2008 ASKED BY SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" AND SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI REGARDING ABSENCE OF CHILDREN FROM SCHOOLS

(a) to (e) : The Government of India conducted a study on Student Attendance in 20 states covering 286 districts during 2006-07. The overall average student attendance rate was 68.5% at primary and 75.7% at upper primary levels. The States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh reported student attendance rates of 42.2% and 57.4% respectively, at primary level, wherein student attendance rates for SC children were 46.4% in Bihar and 59.6% in Uttar Pradesh and were 44.3% in Bihar and 56.1% in Uttar Pradesh for muslim children. Rajasthan had 57.8% student attendance for ST children.

At the upper primary level, Bihar had 36.8% student attendance wherein it was 42.2% & 40% for SC and muslim children.
In the study, the chief reasons cited by parents for low student attendance included, children not liking to go to school; lack of schooling facilities; and temporary migration.

The Government of India under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, supports States/Union Territories to augment school infrastructure at the elementary level; set-up flexible educational facilities for children where necessary; invest in community mobilisation and improve the quality of elementary education.